

Canine Bulletin

Nebraska Task Force - 1

January 2001

Wilderness Search (We Have to Look Out for Elaine!)

Submitted by: One Soc

Dear Fellow K-9's,

I wanted to tell you about some stuff that's been happening around Springfield lately. You know how Elaine is always joking that when she gets older everyone is going to have to look out for her? Well, she wasn't kidding! She keeps going out in the woods and getting lost and I have to go find her.

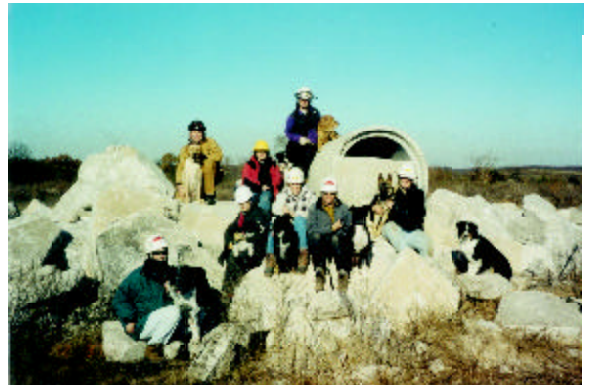
It's a good thing she spent all those months building my "foundation" teaching me how to find people, stay with them, and alert. Do you think she knew the day would come when she would be getting lost in the woods so often?

As first it wasn't so bad. She wouldn't go very far and sometimes I would even see her leave and I'd think, "There goes that silly woman again!" "No problem - I'll go and get her"! But the other day she really pulled a good one. My Mom took me to this HUGE field surrounded by woods. She said to me, "Miss Elaine is lost again. You've gotta find her. You ready?" "SEARCH!" Well, I know that command so I got right to work! First I tried tracking her but that wasn't working. That silly

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Recent Training in Springfield

Submitted by: Elaine Sawtell



Submission of Items for the *Canine Bulletin*...

Please mail submissions to:

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PET DOCTOR

BARF diet poses risks to pet dogs

Question: I am writing in hopes that you might address the dangerous feeding fad called "BARF." (Bones and Raw Food). I am a dog trainer/behaviorist (including wolf study) for 19 years. I have researched nutrition for 10 years and found raw meat and bones to be extremely dangerous.

I receive hundreds of e-mails from people whose dogs have died following Billingham and Pitcairn's advice on diet. In addition, numerous vets in my area report treating hundreds of very sick dogs, many of whom had no signs of illness until just days before they died or nearly died — usually from pancreatitis or bones splintering in the stomach/intestines/valves.



**Michael
Fox**

The BARF diet is "based on" what a wolf eats, but it really doesn't resemble a wolf diet — and besides, the diets of wolves and wild dogs are not good models for our domestics. There is no question that raw chicken and turkey bones can easily injure and kill a dog!

Please, comment on and share these facts with your readers. Thanks.

Answer: I appreciate your comments. I, too, have never advocated feeding raw bones and meat, since bones can perforate intestines, and raw meat can carry harmful bacteria and make pets and other family members sick.

Also, from my knowledge of wolves and other wild canines, a raw meat-and-bones diet is nothing like what they consume, even when a few raw vegetables are included — and it is not suitable for our animal companions.

This "BARF" food fad may indeed put many dogs at risk. That some dogs do fine on the diet is because different breeds of dogs have different nutritional requirements, some being more able to digest raw foods than others. Still, there's always the risk involved as to whether a dog can tolerate the diet or not.

In my experience, cooked bones should also never be fed to dogs, since they splinter easily, too. The only bones I give my dogs are par-boiled beef shank (marrow) bones, cut three inches long. Cut them shorter, and they can get stuck around the canine teeth on the lower jaw!

I'd like to hear from readers who are feeding their dogs a BARF diet. Write to me care of this newspaper, and, please, put the letter "B" on the outside of your envelope.

Contact United Feature Syndicate columnist Dr. Michael Fox in care of Life & Times, News-Leader, 651 Boonville Ave., Springfield MO 65806.

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woman must have walked in circles or something. So I stuck my nose in the air and worked and worked that entire area. You know where I found her? Taking a NAP underneath a tarp by a group of trees!! Can you imagine! Do you think she's getting that "Old-timer" disease humans get? Even if she is, I know she LOVES me. Whenever she goes off in the woods like that, she always takes my toy with her to remind her of me! Our people are so cute! And when I save her, she is soooooo happy to see me she smiles and laughs and we just play and play!

I wonder if they make leashes for people. If so we better get her one. I talked to Ditto and you wouldn't believe the stories she tells me about Miss Elaine's behavior at home! (I'd better let Ditto write that article!) Ditto has her work cut out for her, that's for sure!

One other thing, if Miss Elaine gets in the bark barrel for you in Lincoln, be prepared for anything! You never know when she's going to open. Sometime she opens up right away like she's supposed to. (I think she just forgets what she's doing) But the other day I had to bark my fool head off before she opened! (I think she's going deaf too)

But you know what's really scary? I'm beginning to see these same behaviors in MY mom! Our mom's keep calling this stuff "Wilderness Search" and "Variable Reward", but Ditto and I have decided it's really senility setting in!

(PS Thanks to my dad, Doug. He helped me write this article!)

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